

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the Office Action dated December 27, 2005.

In response to the double patenting rejection, a terminal disclaimer in respect of US 2005/0157115 and 2005/0157119 is enclosed.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 USC 102(a) as being anticipated by Martinez-Pacheco. With respect, the Applicant disagrees. Present claim 1 defines the following elements :

“a printhead in fluid communication with the printing fluid storage;

an air inlet; and

one or more conduits arranged to direct air from the air inlet over the printhead”.

It is an essential feature of the invention that the air is directed over, that is across, the printhead in order to maintain the printhead free of dust and particulate matter.

By contrast, Martinez-Pacheco teaches an ink cartridge having a reservoir 101 that fills with ink and supplies ink to a printhead 103. To maintain an appropriate (negative) pressure in the reservoir, the cartridge is provided with expansible bladders that receive air through an inlet 113. The construction and operation of the air management system is described in paragraph [0025] on page 3. The purpose of the air inlet taught by Martinez-Pacheco is to provide the correct pressure to the expansible bladders in order to maintain a slight negative pressure in the reservoir. There is no teaching that air is directed across the printhead as is required by present claim 1.

The Applicant considers that the citation has been raised because it demonstrates an air inlet physically disposed above the printhead. With respect, the claim requires that the air is directed over the printhead and that the person skilled in the art would clearly understand from a reading of the description that the construction taken by the Examiner is not the intended construction, because such a construction would not lead to dust and particulate matter being removed from the printhead. The Applicant therefore submits that claim 1 as presently defined is novel and inventive over the teachings of Martinez-Pacheco.

The Applicant considers that this response fully addresses each of the issues raised in the Office Action, and that by the submissions and arguments presented herein, the application has been placed in condition for acceptance. Further consideration of the application is therefore respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,
Applicant:



KIA SILVERBROOK

C/o: Silverbrook Research Pty Ltd
393 Darling Street
Balmain NSW 2041, Australia

Email: kia.silverbrook@silverbrookresearch.com

Telephone: +612 9818 6633

Facsimile: +61 2 9555 7762